

# ENLISTED CAREER NOTES



## EOA AND ASSISTANT IG ASSIGNMENTS

The Enlisted Infantry Branch at the Total Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM) is looking for qualified senior NCOs in the ranks of staff sergeant (promotable) through master sergeant/first sergeant for Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) and Assistant Inspector General (AIG) assignments.

A major consideration is that these NCOs have served in troop-related assignments immediately preceding one of these assignments.

To qualify, an NCO must meet the following prerequisites:

- Be a high school graduate or equivalent.
  - Not have had a previous tour as EOA or AIG.
  - Meet body weight standard in accordance with AR 600-9.
  - GT score of 110 or higher.
  - Latest self-development test (SDT) score of 60 or above.
  - Selected for or graduate of the Advanced NCO Course.
  - Have two years remaining service.
- For EOA only:
- Rank of staff sergeant (promotable) or sergeant first class with less than two years time in grade.
  - Less than 15 years time in service.

Assistant Inspector General duty is now a three-year stabilized tour, and Equal Opportunity Advisor duty is a two-year stabilized tour, upon completion of the course.

Any qualified senior NCO who would like to volunteer for one of these assignments should submit DA Form 4187, Personnel Action Request, through his personnel service center.

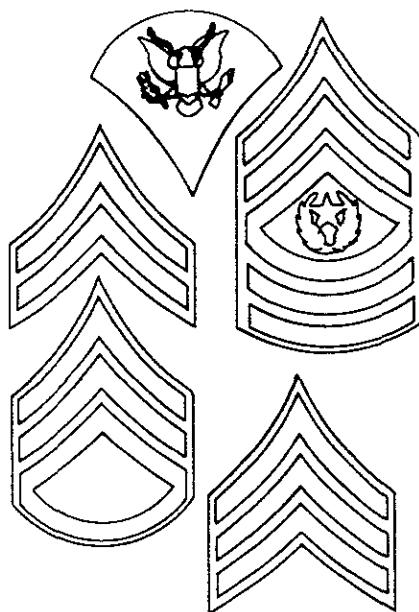
## GT SCORES

Senior NCOs should review their soldiers General Technical (GT) scores and encourage their subordinates to strive for minimum scores of 110.

Noncommissioned officers who have GT scores below 110 should be encouraged to seek guidance through their local education centers on ways to raise those scores. An NCO with a low score may be ineligible for many military schools and may not be considered for certain career enhancing assignments.

## DEFENSE ATTACHE SYSTEM ASSIGNMENTS

Army noncommissioned officers in the ranks of sergeant through master sergeant/first sergeant who are looking



for challenging and rewarding career opportunities worldwide are being sought for duty in the Defense Attache System (DAS).

The DAS is now recruiting highly motivated and qualified NCOs seeking joint service staff assignments in American embassies throughout the world. Selected NCOs are given an opportunity to represent the United States Army in diplomatic assignments in Europe; North, Central, and South

America; Africa; the Far East; and the Middle East.

NCOs considering attache duty must be able to obtain clearance for special intelligence and must have GT scores of 115 or higher, CL scores of 120 or higher, and typing scores of 40 or more words per minute. Soldiers must also test 100 or higher on the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) or be skilled linguists. Computer (word processing) skills are also helpful. All family members must be U.S. citizens and meet the medical standards for the country to which the NCO will be assigned.

Prerequisites, application procedures, and countries available in the program can be found in AR 611-60. For additional information, anyone who is interested may contact SFC Currier at DSN 923-2134/7361 (extension 2633), FAX 923-5352; or commercial (410) 677-2134/7361, extension 2633, FAX (410) 677-5352.

## U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) provides a unique opportunity for enlisted soldiers to gain appointments to the academy and become officers. Unfortunately, the school does not receive applications from all deserving candidates. The deadline for the class of 1994 is 1 May 1993.

The school's primary emphasis is on academics, mixed with military training, physical conditioning, and the development of leadership traits. Students are also required to compete in either intramural or varsity team sports as part of their preparatory training.

While the school focuses primarily on preparing students to pass the USMA entrance exams, the course is also designed to prepare students to succeed at the academy. The students gain valuable leadership experience

through serving in the student chain of command, conducting peer evaluations, and competing in map reading and drill and ceremony competitions.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Be U.S. citizens or able to become citizens before 1 July of the year they graduate from USMAPS.

- At least 17 years of age but not over 21 prior to 1 July of the year in which attendance is desired.

- Unmarried, with no legal dependents.

- High School graduates or GED equivalent.

- Medically qualified for admission to the Military Academy. Vision must be correctable to 20/20 with glasses. Pregnancy results in medical disqualification.

- Of high moral character, with no civilian or military felony conviction and no history of venereal infection or

of alcohol or drug abuse.

- Highly motivated toward careers as officers.

Anyone who is interested may obtain further information by calling the Admissions Office, DSN 992-1807/1808, commercial (908) 532-1807/1808; or by writing to Commandant, USMAPS, MAPS-ADM, Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703-5000.

# SWAP SHOP



## KEEPING THE M17 MASK IN ITS CARRIER

A soldier's basic protection against a biological or chemical threat is his M17 series protective mask. Although the mask itself works well, the carrier it is stored in does not. The biggest drawback is that the flap used to keep the mask in the carrier will not stay snapped, and it usually opens at the most inappropriate time—during critical individual movements while assaulting an objective, or while on night patrols in thick vegetation or a swamp.

Some soldiers have tried to solve this problem by wrapping tape around their carriers. By far the most popular method is to wrap the carrier leg strap tightly around it and then connect the leg strap hook to one of the metal rings on the carrier. Because the metal rings are between the carrier and the soldier's body, however, they are not easy to reach.

Both of these methods keep the mask in the carrier, but they do not allow the soldier to retrieve the mask in the prescribed, life-saving time standard of nine seconds. I have found that a standard Kevlar helmet camouflage band works well. This is an issue item and costs about 35 cents.

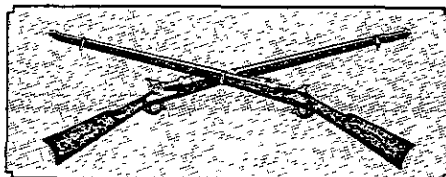
To use the helmet band with the mask carrier, unsnap

the M256 decontamination kit carrying pocket, stretch the helmet band around the mask carrier, place the band under the decontamination kit pocket flap, and snap the flap closed. The helmet band is tight enough to keep the mask in the carrier yet elastic enough to allow it to be removed easily. By hooking the band with the thumb and pushing down or pulling up, a soldier can gain immediate access to his protective mask. The helmet band will still be attached to the carrier by the decontamination kit pocket flap for reuse. A safety pin can also be used to double-secure the band to the carrier. The luminous tape sewn on the helmet band also helps a soldier find the carrier at night when he is not carrying it. With practice, a soldier can retrieve and don his mask within the time standard.

I have carried my mask this way for several years, and it has never failed me. I've parachuted from aircraft, rappelled, conducted water operations, low-crawled, and breached concertina wire, without having the carrier inadvertently open. And it never prevented me from meeting the standards during EIB and CTT training and testing.

The need for a new carrier for the M17 series mask is obvious; meantime, though, we have to use the one we have and make sure the mask is handy when it is needed.

*(Submitted by Staff Sergeant Brent Holman, Fort Harrison, Indiana.)*



# OFFICERS CAREER NOTES



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ASSIGNMENT OFFICERS

We, the assignment officers at Infantry Branch, Total Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM), need your help so we can serve you better. The following are some steps you can take that will make your career management more effective and efficient:

**Let us know how to get in touch with you.** We get a weekly update on each officer's current unit of assignment from the Standard Installation/Division Personnel System (SIDPERS). Unfortunately, though, the unit addresses on the system are not always detailed enough for us to find you on the first try. We need for you to send us both your current unit address and your home mailing address. We routinely send out mass mailings to officers' home addresses, and about 20 to 40 percent are returned because the officers have moved and have not updated this information. We now put a special instruction to this effect on every Request for Orders (RFO).

In addition to addresses, we need your home and duty telephone numbers. If you are overseas, we would like both the military and commercial numbers. Without this information, it may take us several days to find you.

**Let us know what you are doing now.** Currently, 22 percent of the infantry officer records on SIDPERS do not show current duty titles. This information is important to your career management, because many decisions on future assignments are based on it. Promotion and selection boards also require current information.

Include your current duty title when you send us a change of address or telephone number. Also follow up locally to make sure proper SIDPERS transactions have been made each time you

change jobs.

**Work to get officer record brief (ORB) corrections made through your installation.** Your local command is staffed with record specialists to make these changes, and Infantry Branch is not. These specialists can fix more than 90 percent of the information and will mail us the data on any entries they can't fix.

The system will work if you do your annual birth-month audits and check corrections on the feedback copies you get several months later. Don't wait until your board is about to convene to get things straight.

**Take an active part in the assignment process.** The ideal time to start talking is eight to nine months before completing your tour—the date of return from overseas (DEROS) if serving outside the continental United States (OCONUS), 24 months time on station if within CONUS. If you are six months or less from completing a tour and have *not* talked to an assignment officer, you are behind schedule. If you call too early, we may not have requirements for the period when you will be available. If you call after you're available to move, you may have fewer options.

Get your assignment officer's professional development guidance and recommendations; talk these over with your mentor and your family; and make a decision. Unless you commit to a certain assignment, we will continue offering it to other qualified officers. Officers who can make their decisions within 24 hours typically get what they want from the available options.

**Actively prepare for boards.** Assignment officers begin reviewing files for a board about a month before the convening date. Ideally, by that time, we will have the special board ORB that you signed (it has X's over

certain information), a current photo, and a complete microfiche.

Order your ORB and microfiche about a year ahead from Officer Records Section (not from Infantry Branch) at the following address:

Commander  
PERSCOM  
ATTN: TAPC-MSR-S  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, VA 22332

When you receive your ORB, check to make sure all your officer evaluation reports (OERs) are on it. Also check to make sure that *orders* for all awards, decorations, Ranger tab, and the like, are shown on the bottom of the fiche. If you get your photo to us several months early, you can call and we will give you our comments on it.

The special promotion board ORB that you sign is what goes before the board. Virtually all of these have some corrections, so don't be overly concerned if that last Army Achievement Medal hasn't been printed out—just handwrite it on the ORB. The single most important thing you can do is to see that your ORB is accurate.

With your help, we can provide you with professional advice, assignment processing, and board preparation. If you have any questions or recommendations, please let us know.

